



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**McLean County Health Department announces In-Person Counseling Program**  
*Health Department to enroll residents in Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace beginning Oct. 1*

BLOOMINGTON— The McLean County Health Department will provide education and consumer assistance designed to facilitate enrollment of county residents in the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace through the In-Person Counseling Program, beginning Oct. 1.

The McLean County Health Department is one of 80 local health departments funded through an award granted to the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) to participate in the outreach and enrollment effort as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). IAPHA was one of 44 grantee organizations selected by the administration of Gov. Pat Quinn to provide the In-Person Counseling Program.

"We know there is a significant number of uninsured adults in McLean County," Walt Howe, McLean County Health Department Director, said. "We look forward to providing education and support to uninsured residents about the options available through the Marketplace."

The local health department received \$110,757 as part of the IAPHA application that was awarded \$5 million from the state of Illinois to hire new staff and coordinate the local In-Person Counseling Program. In-Person Counselors (IPCs) will provide information and assistance to individuals, families, and small businesses seeking to enroll in new health coverage options and help people choose the right health insurance plan available to them through the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace.

IPCs will answer basic questions about health insurance and guide McLean County residents through the application process for qualified health plans offered by private insurers through the Marketplace and help residents determine eligibility for Medicaid coverage made available with the recent eligibility expansion. The use of tax credits and cost-reducing subsidies will also be available to help make the plans offered through the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace more affordable to eligible McLean County residents.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 McLean County residents are uninsured. Uninsured county residents are not required to

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make use of IPCs at the local health department, but assistance through the IPC Program will be available free of charge to uninsured McLean County residents. Residents may either utilize the IPC Program or determine their own eligibility for financial assistance and enroll in insurance coverage online, by phone, or email using [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). People in need of additional help determining eligibility and guidance about available coverage and enrollment may seek assistance from IPCs at the McLean County Health Department beginning Oct. 1. Insurance coverage acquired through the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace begins Jan. 1, 2014.

The IPC Grant Program is funded through the federal ACA grant made available to the State of Illinois by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please visit [www.healthcarereform.illinois.gov](http://www.healthcarereform.illinois.gov).

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